

Message Text

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73

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07

FMC-02 INR-07 NSAE-00 SAL-01 CG-00 DLOS-06 OES-06

LAB-04 SIL-01 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 /064 W

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R 090706Z NOV 76

FM AMCONSUL SYDNEY

TO CTF SEVEN SIX

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

SECSTATE WASHDC 7248

UNCLAS SYDNEY 2943

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OCLR

SUBJ: FLEET VISIT

AS A MATTER OF HISTORICAL RECORD, YOU MAY BE INTERESTED
IN THE FOLLOWING ACCOUNT OF THE CONTROVERSY WHICH DELAYED
YOU IN GETTING UNDERWAY FROM GARDEN ISLAND ON NOVEMBER 5.
IT APPEARED IN THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD OF NOVEMBER 9.

QUOTE: 3 PORTS STOP AFTER STRIKE BY LINESMEN. NO SHIPS
CAN MOVE IN THE PORTS OF SYDNEY, NEWCASTLE AND PORT KEMBLA
BECAUSE OF A SUDDEN STRIKE BY LINESMEN. THE MEN, WHO
TIE-UP SHIPS AT WHARVES, WENT ON STRIKE LATE YESTERDAY
AFTERNOON IN SUPPORT OF LINESMEN WHO HAD BEEN SUSPENDED
AT GARDEN ISLAND IN THE MORNING. THE DISPUTE AROSE AFTER
LINESMEN FROM GARDEN ISLAND CLAIMED THE RIGHT TO UNTIE TWO
U.S. NAVAL SHIPS BERTHED AT WOOLLOOMOOLOO ON FRIDAY AND
SATURDAY. THE NAVY HAD CLAIMED THAT IT WAS NORMAL
PRACTICE FOR NAVAL PERSONNEL TO RELEASE SERVICE SHIPS.
THE LINESMEN, MEMBERS OF THE FIREMEN'S AND DECKHANDS'
UNION, CLAIMED THAT IT WAS THE JOB OF CIVILIAN WORKERS TO
RELEASE SHIPS AT COMMERCIAL BERTHS. THE UNION THEN PLACED
A BAN ON THE TWO SHIPS AND THE CREWS OF THE TUGS -- MEMBERS
OF THE SAME UNION -- THEN REFUSED TO PULL THE SHIPS AWAY
WHILE NAVAL PERSONNEL WERE ACTING AS LINESMEN. THE TUGS
WERE MANNED BY NAVAL PERSONNEL AND THE SHIPS SAILED A
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COUPLE OF HOURS LATE. THE MASTERS OF THE TUGS HAD REFUSED

TO WORK ALONGSIDE NAVAL RATINGS IN PLACE OF THEIR NORMAL
CREW, AND YESTERDAY ABOUT 30 MERCHANT SERVICE GUILD
MEMBERS, WORKING AT WOOLLOOMOOLOO, WERE SUSPENDED. END
QUOTE.
DAVIS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PORT CONGESTION, LOAD LINE VIOLATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 NOV 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976SYDNEY02943
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760418-0222
From: SYDNEY
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761165/aaaacehi.tel
Line Count: 66
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: oatisao
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 JUL 2004 by schwenja>; APPROVED <25 AUG 2004 by oatisao>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FLEET VISIT AS A MATTER OF HISTORICAL RECORD, YOU MAY BE INTERESTED IN THE FOLLOWING ACCOUNT OF THE CONTROVERSY WHICH
TAGS: OCLR, AS
To: CTF SEVEN SIX
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006